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Senate Republicans working hard to get Michigan working

LANSING — Senate Republicans continue to fight for Michigan families by working hard on job-saving legislation designed to help get Michigan working, Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, announced today.

“Michigan companies need to have a tax and regulatory climate that allows them to be globally competitive,” said Hardiman, who is sponsoring a part of the package. “Our JOBS plan would help make that happen.”

Since last fall, Senate and House Republicans have been moving full speed ahead on JOBS – “Job Opportunities for Business Success” – a broad Republican plan for revitalizing Michigan’s economy.

Legislation in both phases of the JOBS plan is designed to improve Michigan’s economy by creating new job opportunities, saving existing jobs, and promoting a friendlier and healthier business climate in Michigan.

Senate Bill 869, part of JOBS I, would make start-up businesses exempt from the Single Business Tax. The bill was recently reported out of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Regulatory Reform.

That committee also is considering Hardiman’s bill, SB 1094, that would make it easier for businesses to file state taxes – allowing a single company with multiple subsidiaries to file one return.

Designed to reduce the tax burden for small businesses that hire new employees, SB 1093 has passed the Senate and now is before the House of Representatives. The bill offers companies with less than \$10 million in annual sales a tax credit for hiring new employees. The credit is equal to 1 percent of the compensation paid to the new employees.

Senate Resolution 224, preventing stringent business standards in Michigan from impeding economic development and job creation, passed the Senate late last month. Companies looking to expand or relocate could lose interest in Michigan because of overly stringent standards.

The “Private Labs” package recently introduced will create a state-lab accreditation program – establishing uniform performance standards and helping expand the use of private labs by the state, providing additional job opportunities.

SR 228, aimed at streamlining U.S.-Canadian border issues, calls on the governor to create a Michigan-Ontario Border Commission to standardize border-related rules and regulations. The bill is before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor.

“The breadth of this package shows there’s no single way to reduce burdensome government rules,” Hardiman said. “But by having the state improve a number of its interactions with private enterprise, we can remove barriers to job creation.”

Senate Republicans plan to introduce other key elements of the JOBS II plan in the coming weeks, including:

- Providing an equipment tax credit to promote development of high-speed Internet infrastructure;
- Eliminating red-tape nightmares by creating a “bureaucracy buster team” to recommend ways to remove burdensome regulations for businesses; and
- Keep business bankruptcy assets in Michigan by providing an incentive for companies to participate in the bankruptcy proceedings of other in-state companies.

“For Michigan companies to retain the jobs they have and create new ones, the state has to be a national and global destination for doing business,” Hardiman said.

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